

Message Text

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SUBJECT: NOBEL PRIZE 1976

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1. THE SEVEN AMERICAN NOBEL LAUREATES ENDED THEIR FORMAL PROGRAM IN SWEDEN ON DECEMBER 15, THUS COMPLETING A UNIQUE PHASE IN THE LONG HISTORY OF THE NOBEL AWARDS. FOR THE FIRST AND POSSIBLY THE ONLY TIME, ALL FIVE PRIZES WERE AWARDED TO CITIZENS OF ONE COUNTRY. IN THE EMBASSY'S VIEW, EACH OF THESE SEVEN MEN REFLECTED GREAT CREDIT ON THE US, PROVED THEMSELVES OUTSTANDING AMBASSADORS OF GOOD WILL, AND FULLY CONFIRMED THE JUDGEMENT OF THE NOBEL FOUNDATION IN ITS SELECTION OF THESE LEADERS IN PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY, MEDICINE, LITERATURE AND ECONOMICS.

2. MEDIA REACTION - THE SWEDISH MEDIA, PARTICULARLY THE PRESS, FOCUSED HEAVILY ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE NOBEL PROGRAMS WHATEVER THE POLITICAL COLORATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL
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NEWSPAPER. TELEVISION COVERAGE OF THE ACTUAL PRESENTATION CEREMONY AND THE VARIOUS BANQUETS INVOLVING THE KING AND QUEEN WITH THE LAUREATES AND THEIR FAMILIES WAS EXCEEDINGLY GENEROUS. THERE WAS LITTLE BUT PRAISE IN THE MEDIA FOR SIX OF THE SEVEN LAUREATES. QUITE CONTROVERSIAL WAS THE SELECTION OF DR. MILTON FRIEDMAN OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO WHOSE ECONOMIC THEORIES AND ALLEGED
ROLE AS AN ECONOMIC ADVISOR TO THE CHILE GOVERNMENT WERE
THE SUBJECT OF NUMEROUS ARTICLES, EDITORIALS AND
LETTERS TO THE EDITORS OF ALL STOCKHOLM PAPERS.

3. THOUGHTFUL SWEDISH OBSERVERS AGREED THAT THE MOST SIGNIFICANT
CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO THIS YEAR'S ALL-AMERICAN SLATE WERE (A)
THE LARGE PUBLIC INVESTMENT BY THE UNITED STATES IN SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY, (B) THE HIGH MOBILITY OF AMERICAN SCIENTISTS
(C) THE UNRESTRICTED FLOW OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL
INFORMATION, AND (D) THE STRONG AMERICAN AWARENESS OF
AND PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.
ONLY THE DETRACTORS OF THE UNITED STATES, LARGELY
IGNORANT OF THE MECHANISM FOR THE SELECTION OF LAUREATES
BY THE NOBEL FOUNDATION, CHOSE TO BELIEVE THAT THE AWARDS
WERE MADE TO AMERICANS FOR POLITICAL REASONS OR TO HONOR
THE BICENTENNIAL.

4. POLITICAL ASPECTS - THE CONFERRING OF THE ECONOMICS
PRIZE TO DR. MILTON FRIEDMAN STIMULATED THE ONLY TWINGE OF
ANTI-AMERICANISM DURING THE WEEK-LONG FESTIVITIES. THE
CHILE COMMITTEE OF SWEDEN, INCLUDING SEVERAL COMMUNIST
SPLINTER ORGANIZATIONS, LED THE DEMONSTRATION AGAINST DR.
FRIEDMAN AND THE NOBEL FOUNDATION. APPROXIMATELY 5,000
DEMONSTRATORS SURROUNDED THE STOCKHOLM CONCERT HALL ON THE
EVENING OF THE PRESENTATIONS AND LOUDLY CONDEMNED FRIEDMAN, THE
PINOCHEZ REGIME, AND THE ALLEGED CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO.
THEY LATER MARCHED TO THE CITY HALL WHERE THE NOBEL BANQUET
TOOK PLACE BUT MANAGED TO DO LITTLE MORE THAN TIE UP TRAFFIC
FOR A SHORT PERIOD. THERE WAS NO VIOLENCE CONNECTED WITH
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THESE DEMONSTRATIONS. THE ONLY ARREST WAS THAT OF A YOUNG STUDENT
WHO MANAGED TO GET INTO THE CONCERT HALL AND CAUSED
A TEMPORARY DISRUPTION OF THE PROCEEDINGS BY
SHOUTING ANTI-FRIEDMAN, ANTI-AMERICAN SLOGANS JUST BEFORE
THE KING'S PRESENTATION OF THE NOBEL PRIZE TO FRIEDMAN.

5. EMBASSY ROLE - EMBASSY INVOLVEMENT IN AND ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANCE (MEETING AT AIRPORT, PASSPORTS, TRANSPORTATION,
MAIL, ETC.) TO THE NOBEL ACTIVITIES WAS EXTENSIVE. THE
AMBASSADOR HOSTED A LUNCHEON AT THE RESIDENCE IN HONOR OF THE
NOBEL LAUREATES AND THEIR WIVES AS WELL AS THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AND MEMBERS OF THE PRIZE SELECTING COMMITTEES OF THE NOBEL
FOUNDATION. HE ALSO HOSTED A COLLOQUIUM WITH SAUL BELLOW, THE
LITERATURE LAUREATE, IN WHICH NINE PROMINENT SWEDISH
INTELLECTUALS AND THREE AMERICAN LITERATURE STUDENTS
PARTICIPATED. THE EMBASSY ASSISTED THE SWEDISH
FEDERATION OF YOUNG RESEARCHERS IN THE LATTER'S
PROGRAM HONORING THREE AMERICAN STUDENTS (ISEF -

INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR WINNERS). AN EMBASSY LUNCHEON WAS ARRANGED IN HONOR OF THE AMERICAN ISEF STUDENTS AND THEIR TEN FELLOW STUDENT WINNERS FROM SWEDEN, GERMANY AND GREAT BRITAIN.

6. IN SUM, THE UNITED STATES CAN BE VERY PROUD OF THE FACT THAT ALL THE NOBEL PRIZES WERE AWARDED TO AMERICAN CITIZENS, ON THE BASIS OF THEIR LEADERSHIP AND ACHIEVEMENT, IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR.
SMITH

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